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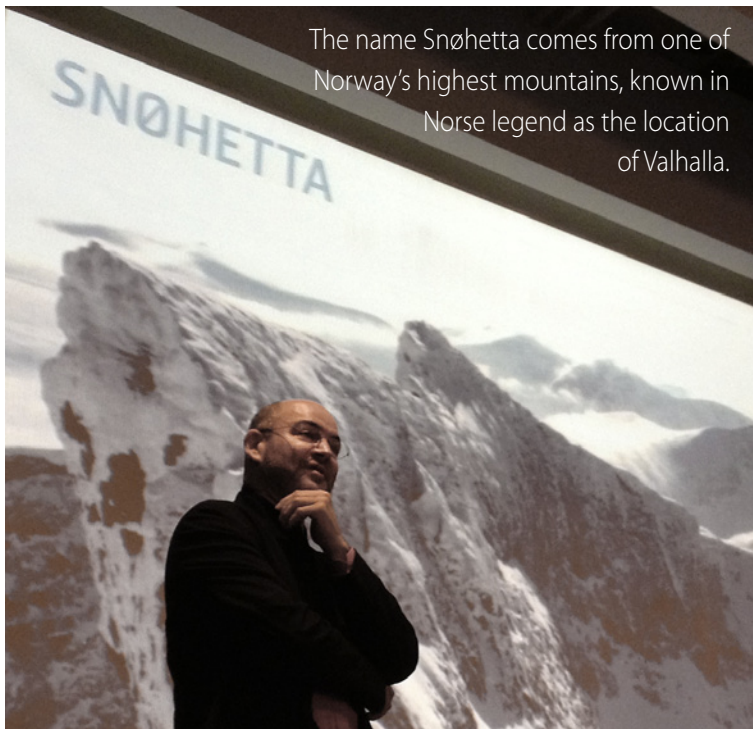
April, 2012

spring membership meeting Saturday, April 21, 10 AM - 12:30 PM

On the Agenda  
Program  
Hosted by

Artist and Event Updates  
Barbara Stevens Strauss: Member Artist Presentation  
Maj-Britt Mobrand, 2350 Spaulding Ave, Berkeley, CA  
510-549-0326, glimakraweavingstudio@comcast.net

lecture by craig dykers, principal architect, snøhetta - sponsored by nordic 5 arts



The name Snøhetta comes from one of Norway's highest mountains, known in Norse legend as the location of Valhalla.

By Samuel M. Sobol, M.D.

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, Craig Dykers spoke to a full house and a receptive audience at the Auditorium, Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley, at the invitation of Nordic 5 Arts. He was introduced by Consul Magnus Aasbrenn of the Norwegian Consulate General in San Francisco. Mr. Dykers is the Principal Architect and co-founder of Snøhetta, the renowned Norwegian architectural firm which has won world-wide acclaim for their designs of the new Library of Alexandria, the Oslo Opera House and a number of other important international projects, including a redesign of Times Square and the National September 11 museum at the 9/11 Memorial in New York.

Mr. Dykers' main topic was the SFMOMA addition project, but he began by introducing the philosophy and organization of Snøhetta, focusing on the firm's "transdisciplinary" approach to design, involving close and often intense collaboration among the firm's architects, interior designers, and landscape designers. The importance of collaboration and "out of the box" thinking is evident as soon as one walks in the door of their offices in Oslo and New York. In Oslo, almost all work is done in large interconnected spaces, with enclosed offices at a minimum, used only for conference calls and similar functions requiring sound isolation. The intersection of all work areas with the rest of the office guarantees the ongoing cross fertilization of ideas and designs among employees in every discipline. In the NY office, there is no reception desk at the main entrance. One walks directly into a kitchen, supplied with a highly visible beer tap, and a basket of fruit, with the work space beyond.

Although the stress on collaboration could, in other settings, produce homogenized "architecture by committee," the innovative and groundbreaking designs produced by Snøhetta reflect the success of an organizational and intellectual model which challenges its members to retain their individual creative integrity while striving to create architecture that always attempts to reflect the presence of the people who will use it and the relation of the structure to its imminent and broader environment. In Mr. Dykers' words, architecture should stand as "a representation of who we are."

In presenting Snøhetta's vision for the new SFMOMA project, Mr. Dykers reflected on the opportunities and the challenges of designing a very large addition – more than doubling the current exhibition space to accommodate the Fisher Collection of Contemporary Art – to a distinctive and iconic existing building, in a difficult, constrained space behind the current museum. Among the goals of the new designers was opening the museum more to the city, by creating corridors of public circulation from both the current 3rd Ave entrance and a new entrance on Howard Street which will allow free, unticketed circulation throughout the museum's redesigned ground floor. The ground floor level of the new addition will be clad in glass to open itself, in a welcoming gesture, to pedestrian traffic on the street and the alleyway from which the addition will rise. Outdoor terraces and a new sculpture garden will further provide a sense of openness and connect the museum to the city. As Mr. Dykers pointed out, and very consistent with Snøhetta's ethos, "Our approach to the neighborhood will strengthen SFMOMA's engagement with the city."

Among the other innovative features of the addition is the surface treatment of the façade, using a white, specially formulated concrete mixture impregnated with mica chips, which will be textured in a manner that ensures a constant and changing play of light and shadow throughout the day as sun and shadow and San Francisco fog modulate the visual appearance of the building's surface from minute to minute.

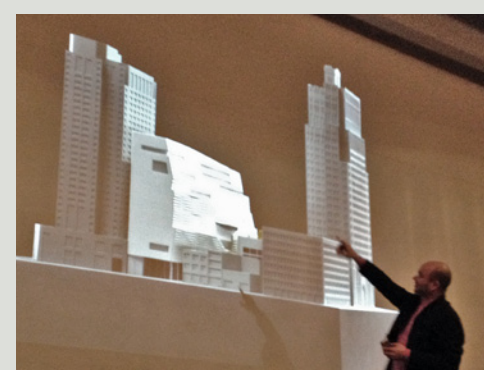
Mr. Dykers' lucid and impassioned discussion of both the concepts that underlie the design and the impact it will have on the museumgoer and the casual viewer once it is completed, were sufficient to convince any skeptics that the new SFMOMA addition will be a worthy and exciting addition to San Francisco's architectural heritage.

The lecture was attended by about 180 people, including UC Berkeley faculty and students, and was followed by a reception at the Faculty Club.



A special thank you to Kati Casida, the founder of Nordic 5 Arts, who took the initiative to invite Mr. Dykers and made all the logistical arrangements that made for a successful and memorable event. We also thank Consul Magnus Aasbrenn for his introduction of Mr. Dykers and Cecilie Klaumann of the Norwegian Consulate General for her assistance.

**Clockwise from top left:** Craig Dykers; Audience (Consul Magnus Aasbrenn in front); Kati Casida and Mr. Dykers; Mr. Dykers pointing to slide show model of SFMOMA; Side view of new addition.



We thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to this event:  
The Norwegian Consulate General - Department of Scandinavia, UC Berkeley  
College of Environmental Design, Dean's Office, Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley  
Norwegian American Cultural Foundation - Members of Nordic 5 Arts



## artist news & exhibitions

**patricia bengtson-jones** has work on exhibit at CK Gallery, Piedmont, March 24 - April 20, and Hayward Arts Council's new Foothill Arts of the Bay Gallery, Hayward, March 17 - May 4. In May, **Colette Crutcher** will be installing "Playthings of the Wind: Chinese Kites," a seven panel ceramic mural at the new Recreation Center in San Francisco's Chinatown. She has a solo show, "Stairways, Doors & Windows" at Inclusions Gallery, San Francisco, April 14 - May 13. **ulla de larios** has a solo show, "Origins," at Fibre Arts Design Studio, Palo Alto, CA, April 4 - May 13. **olivia eielson** has a solo show in May at Arrivederci Restaurant in San Rafael, CA. **ellen faris** has just completed a solo exhibition at Inclusions Gallery, San Francisco and will exhibit at the yearly Norway Day Festival, Fort Mason, San Francisco, May 5-6. **marc ellen hamel** has installed five artworks at the new Neiman Marcus store in Walnut Creek. She'll show her new series of monotypes at her Spring Open Studio at Hunters Point Shipyard, April 28 and 29. **maj-britt hilstrom** will be exhibiting at three venues: Bankside Art Gallery, located next to Tate Modern, London, England, May 11 - June 10, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA, May 19 - July 15, and 3rd Annual Show of Book Arts at Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato Arts Center, Novato, April 21 - May 26. She is a participant in the Oregon State University Cascade Print Exchange VI, Spring 2012. **matlena hourula** will be teaching an encaustic workshop at Crown Nine Jewelers and Makers, Oakland, April 22. She will participate in East Bay Open Studios, Berkeley, June 2-3 and 9-10. **kristin linds-eth** is exhibiting in Next to Nature at the Long Beach Art Center, April 11 - May 11. **dorothy mccall** is an artist in residence at Arteles Art Center in Finland where she will write essays on art history, March 28 - May 31. **Helene Sobol** is in a two person exhibition, Nordic Neighbors, at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, San Francisco, March 15 - April 25, and will exhibit at the yearly Norway Day Festival, May 5-6. In October, 2011, she had the honor of presenting her book "Ladies of Hyde Street" to Crown Prince Haakon of Norway (photo below). **barbara stevens strauss**



has had a solo show, *Under the Cinnamon Moon*, at the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco where she gave a lecture about her work in raku. **elizabeth stokkebye** will participate in East Bay Open Studios, June 2-3 and June 9-10.

Helene Sobol (left) presents her book to Crown Prince Haakon of Norway at the Norwegian Seamen's Church, October 2011.

## welcome to new members



### ulla de larios

*My work is concentrated on creating pieces with socio-political content using handwoven textiles and images from the petroglyphs found in my native country (Sweden.) I work with white or natural colored yarn that I dye. The series "Crossings" deals with my immigrant status. The impressions from childhood and youth are the basis for a*

*person's identity and stay with you for the rest of your life. Moving to a new country, we immigrants end up in what is known as "The Third Space," the "In-between." In between the new and the old that changes with time as we change with time.*

ulladelarios.com



### matlena hourula

*I am a Finnish American artist, born and raised in Berkeley, CA, spending countless summers of my childhood immersed in Finland's unique cultural landscape. Feeling not quite at home in either culture, always feeling slightly on the outside of both spaces, has created a fear of losing delicate memories and meaningful cultural rituals. In response to this fear of loss, romanticized memory becomes what tethers me to my family history. My art is an active investigation into the preservation of my bi-cultural identity, the transference of traditions and family histories, and paying homage to the innocence and fragility of memory. Through mediums such as painting, photography, encaustic wax, collage, light boxes and sculpture, I attempt to preserve and bring life to memories past.*

matlenahourula.com



## thank you maj-britt hilstrom for hosting the fall meeting, october 22, 2011

The meeting was held in the art-filled home of Maj-Britt Hilstrom. Her ethereal hangings welcomed us at the front door and her clean, Scandinavian sense of design presided over the light-filled studio.

**PRESENT** Helene Sobol, Colette Crutcher, Maj-Britt Hilstrom, Marc Ellen Hamel, Diane Rusnak, Maj-Britt Mobrand, Pat Bengtson, Loren Rehbok, Olivia Eielson, Margaretha Miglo, Norma Andersen Fox, Pam Fingado, Barbara Steven Strauss, Kay Wehner, Lee Williams, Margareta Bergman, Kati Casida, Elizabeth Stokkebye and her guest Sabina Ivenaes Dyverfeldt.

**UPDATE** on members' activities:

**Norma Andersen Fox** is involved in a show of works by residents past and present at Salem Lutheran Home, East 29th St., Oakland. **Kati Casida** read a letter that she had received from Peter Gallagher, President of the Scandinavian-American Foundation in New York City, congratulating her on the installation of her sculpture "Jonsoek" in Norway. This summer, she traveled to Spain to visit Magne Vangsnes, the Norwegian artist who participated in one of our past shows. Kati stressed the importance of international collaboration between artists. **Margaretha Miglo** participated in Open Studios in San Francisco. **Kay Y. Wehner** has recently joined Poets House in New York, an organization that promotes poetry with education and outreach. Her works are in the collections of the Berkeley and Albany Public Libraries, and Morrison reading room at UCB. Her books are also available in bookstores and on Amazon. **Olivia Eielson** showed at East Bay Open Studios, and is having a watercolor exhibit at Britt Marie's restaurant on Solano in Albany. **Loren Rehbock** finds his new life in Napa remarkably stress-free. He is working from the figure in watercolor and preparing to build a new studio. **Pat Bengtson-Jones** has been energized by new shows she's seen at the Anderson Collection in Menlo Park and Stanford's Cantor Museum. She has reworked a pine sculpture she made in the 70's, while mentoring other stone carvers and making monoprnts. She's also active in environmental work with Berkeley's wetlands. **Maj-Britt Mobrand** teaches weaving and is working on a new piece for Expressions Gallery. She visited the Nordic 5 Arts exhibit in Tacoma and sold a piece there. **Diane Rusnak** attended Finn Fest in San Diego in July, where she connected with other Finnish artists and deepened her understanding of Finnish culture. She has donated her vast archives on women in art history to St. Mary's College and is building a new studio. **Marc Ellen Hamel** organized the fundraiser for Shipyard Trust for the Arts. At her retreat in Plumas County, she has joined in the local movement to paint quilt motifs to decorate the sides of barns. **Colette Crutcher** has completed another tile collaboration with Aileen Barr, this time for Temple Judea in Tarzana, CA. She is also creating a mosaic series on the theme of Chinese kites for a playground in Chinatown, SF, and will be designing decorative fencing for another SF playground, using an innovative new material called "lacefence." **Lee Williams** is creating 3D paintings layered with paper and fabric, then sanded and carved to

reveal the layers beneath. She's exploring mythology and water symbolism. **Lee Williams** is creating 3D paintings layered with paper and fabric, then sanded and carved to reveal the layers beneath. She's exploring mythology and water symbolism. **Debra Jewell** showed her prints at UCB's Faculty Club and participated in a group show at Berkeley Art Center. She currently has work in Cornwall, England. She has created a book about her family history and has connected with her roots in Sweden. **Pam Fingado** closed her gallery and started an online gallery and blog. She's working on a series of acrylic and mixed media pieces based on her meditation practice. She also took a trip through Eastern Europe. **Margareta Bergman** has been photographing and drawing the vineyards in Napa where she now lives. Drawing has replaced the graphic design and printmaking that were the basis of her career. **Barbara Stevens Strauss'** ceramics are at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center in conjunction with an exhibition of work by Yonei Noguchi, father of Isamu. **Elizabeth Stokkebye** teaches Scandinavian literature at UCB. She is creating a series based on Andersen's fairy tales. Elizabeth's guest, **Sabina Ivenaes Dyverfeldt** is a Swedish visual artist working on a PhD in Scandinavian literature. **Maj-Britt Hilstrom** has two shows scheduled for January, 2012: figurative sculpture at 700 Townsend with painter Lynn Fisher, and non-figurative woodblock and monotype prints and sculpture at the Firehouse Art Center in Pleasanton. **Helene Sobol** has been commissioned to design two books of poetry.

**PROGRAM** **Maj-Britt Hilstrom** gave a demonstration of drawing/painting on an iPad. She was enthusiastic about this new medium and showed how to draw a portrait, using Colette as her model (see photo below.) **Marc Ellen Hamel** brought in a bag of rune stones she had made in Fimo and demonstrated their use for divination. Some members chose stones for themselves and will try and use the runes and their interpretation as artistic subject matter for a future Nordic 5 Art show. Respectfully submitted, Colette Crutcher



Thank you to those who contributed photos to this issue.

Left: Maj-Britt Hilstrom shows her drawing of Colette Crutcher on the iPad.

Right: Marc Ellen Hamel's "Runes"

The nordic 5 arts NEWSBRIEF is published in spring and fall. Edited and designed by Helene Sobol.

The publication supports and promotes artists with Nordic heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area. Subscription \$10; membership dues \$25.

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